



GEORGE DRUMMOND.
FROM A BUST BY NOLLEKENS.

"Adam Watt, Humanity; Colin M'Laurin, Mathematics; Joseph Gibson, Midwifery; Robert Whytt, Theory and Practice of Medicine; Matthew Stewart, Mathematics; James Robertson, Hebrew; John Goldie, Principal; Robert Hamilton, Divinity; James Balfour, Moral Philosophy, afterwards the Law of Nature and Nations; Robert Dick, Civil Law; William Cullen, Chemistry, and Theory and Practice of Medicine; Thomas Young, Midwifery; Alexander Monro, *secundus*; Adam Ferguson, Natural and afterwards Moral Philosophy; William Robertson, Principal; Robert Cumming, Church History; Hugh Blair, Rhetoric."

George Drummond died on the 4th December 1766, at Drummond Lodge, and a great procession, including the Principal and Professors of the University, attended him with every mark of respect to his burying-place in the Canongate Churchyard on the 8th of the same month. On that morning Dr. Cullen, in dismissing his class before the conclusion of the hour, apologised to them by saying that he was "called upon by the Principal to attend a Faculty Meeting, the reason of which was that the College were to attend a funeral to-day, to put the highest mark of respect upon the greatest character Edinburgh ever saw. That they were unanimously of opinion too much could not be done by them to show the sense they had of his merit; that Medicine owed more to him than to all the men who ever sat in that Chair; and it was well known he followed them out with every good office in his power in or out of office. Who but himself could erect such an edifice as a Royal Infirmary? What benefit it was to Medicine, besides the relieving the distressed! and therefore he well knew they (*i.e.* the Students) would readily excuse his leaving his Chair in order to join his Brethren, that they in the most public manner might testify to the world what high veneration they had for so noble a character."

In the lobby of the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, whither it has been transferred from the original Infirmary which Drummond built, there is an admirable and characteristic bust of him by Nollekens, with an inscription on the pedestal by Principal Robertson:—

"George Drummond

To whom this country is indebted for all the benefit which it
derives from the Royal Infirmary."

But Scotland owes more to George Drummond than the institution of an Infirmary, and the real monument to him is—modern Edinburgh.

APPENDIX K. THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

THE subject of this Appendix is something that was and is not. Its Natural History Museum was once the great glory of the University of Edinburgh, but that has long since been carried off and absorbed into a Governmental institution, which, so far as possible, repudiates all connection with the University. A few brief notes on the history of the Museum once possessed by the University may perhaps here suffice.

The first attempts to get together a collection of Natural History specimens in Edinburgh were made by those two friends to whose zeal and energy we owe (as above related, pp. 217-223) the establishment of the Physic Garden and of the Royal College of Physicians, namely, Dr. Andrew Balfour and Sir Robert Sibbald. Balfour had commenced collecting before Sibbald, and he spent twenty-three years, as Bower says, in amassing natural curiosities from all countries, in the pursuit of which object his wealth and his extensive travels gave him a great advantage. What became of Balfour's collection is not stated, but Sibbald considered the collection which he began making towards the end of the eighteenth century to be a supplement to that of his friend. He proceeded on a less extensive scale than Balfour had done, and aimed especially at collecting indigenous curiosities, such as would throw light on the Natural History of Scotland. In 1697 he presented the specimens which he had got together to the College of Edinburgh, accompanied by a catalogue, which was dedicated to the Town Council, and bore the title of *Auctorium Musæi Balfouriani e Musæo Sibbaldiano*. And this looks as if Balfour's collection had been already given to the College; only Bower in relating the above-mentioned circumstances (vol. i. pp. 376-78) does not say so.¹ The catalogue contains 216 pages

¹ In 1688, when Morer visited the College of Edinburgh, he was shown such treasures as it then possessed, and he describes them in the following terms: "The staircase before mentioned leads us up to a large room, formerly

in 12mo, and describes the objects in the collection, classified into—I. Minerals; II. The more rare substances taken from plants; III. The more rare productions from the Animal Kingdom; IV. Works of Art, with MSS. and rare books added.

Sibbald's collection having been added to such specimens of Natural History as the College previously possessed, the Town Council a few years later bethought them to provide for the keeping in order of the Museum which had been commenced. As we have seen above (p. 295), they appointed the first Professor of Anatomy in 1705, to "take exact notice and inspection of the rarities of the College," and to give in to the Council "an exact inventory of the same." This interest in the Natural History collections, for want of a Professor of the subject, was not maintained; the objects fell into disorder, deteriorated, or were abstracted. By 1770, when Ramsay was appointed the first Professor of the subject, the Sibbald Museum had disappeared.

When in 1766 Dr. Walker was appointed to be Ramsay's successor, he immediately commenced getting together a new Natural History collection for the use of his class. And in 1783, when the Royal Society of Edinburgh was founded (in the manner which will be related elsewhere), it was laid down by its charter that all the specimens of Natural History belonging to the Society should be placed under the custody of the University. And thus the University got possession of the Huttonian collection of minerals and other valuable collections. On Dr. Walker's death such specimens as he had himself procured for the University were removed by his family as being private property.

The third Professor of Natural History, Jameson, succeeded to the Chair in 1804, and it must be remembered that at that time the University buildings were in a deplorable condition,

their Library, but is now used for a commencement chamber, and is the Common-Hall for all College entertainment and business of moment. Here were several maps, globes, and some books, with a few rarities, as a Palm-leaf two yards and a half long; a Speaking-trumpet made of copper, about three yards in length; a Sea-horse Pissle two yards; an American Shell which the natives make their trumpet; a crooked Horn divers inches long, cut out of a woman's head above the right ear, when she was fifty years old, and lived twelve years after." It may be mentioned that this horn is now in the Anatomical Museum of the University, with a silver plate attached to it, on which the history of the patient is recorded.

parts of the old College having been pulled down, and the new buildings having been arrested for want of funds when only a small instalment of them had been completed. Such curiosities and specimens as the University possessed were still kept in the Upper Hall mentioned by Morer. And here Jameson at once commenced to form, *de novo*, a zoological collection, and for fifty years he continued with the most distinguished success to gather in contributions to it from all parts of the world. This he did by setting his numerous pupils to work for him in whatever country they might be placed. But besides isolated contributions of particular objects, there came in several ready-formed collections for the aggrandisement of the Museum. In addition to the Huttonian collection held for the Royal Society, the University received as a direct gift to itself the zoological collections of Dr. William Thomson, who having got his medical education in Edinburgh, had been made Professor of Anatomy in Oxford, and afterwards retired to reside at Naples, and finally at Palermo.

In 1819 the great Natural History collection of M. Du Frêne was announced for sale in Paris, and the Senatus having the reversion of General Reid's legacy of £52,000 to look forward to, borrowed the sum of £3000 from some of the Edinburgh Banks¹ on the security of this reversion, and purchased the collection. Next year, in 1820, the "Regius Museum" for the use of the Regius Professor of Natural History, and for the reception of his collections, was completed, occupying the whole of the west side of the University quadrangle, and was most carefully fitted up by Playfair, the architect, under Professor Jameson's instruction. All the splendid zoological display was removed thither, and additions to it continued to flow in. In the same year, 1820, a cordial letter arrived from the Marquis of Hastings, Governor-General of India, forwarding an elephant's skeleton, and promising such duplicates of specimens as there might be in the possession of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta. In 1822 Sir Thomas Brisbane, Governor of New South Wales, sent large contributions of natural objects from that country. Bower, writing in 1830, says of the Museum: "The collection of Birds is very extensive. It is the third in Europe, only being exceeded by those of Paris and Berlin. There are upwards of three thousand

¹ These were the Bank of Scotland, the Royal Bank, and Forbes & Co.

different specimens. What greatly enhances the splendour of the sight, is, that every individual throughout the whole Kingdom, which the Museum contains, is in the highest state of preservation, no pains or expense having been spared to accomplish the end in view. The Professor has also studied to introduce scientific arrangement, which renders it more interesting to the philosopher, as well as more agreeable to the mere spectator." Other authorities spoke of the Natural History collection, as a whole, as being in this country "second only to that of the British Museum."

In December 1820 a meeting was held of persons representing the College Buildings Commissioners, the Senatus, and the Town Council, and rules were drawn up for the admission of the public to the Museum now placed in the new buildings. The admission fee was fixed at half-a-crown, in order to provide a fund for keeping up the collections. In 1834 (as we shall see elsewhere) the Town Council reduced the admission fee to one shilling, contrary to the wishes of the Senatus. And in 1839 they proposed to go still further in the direction of popularising the Museum by reducing the price of entry to sixpence. This, however, does not appear to have been carried out.

In 1852, with pardonable want of foresight, the Senatus petitioned Government to take over the Natural History collection of the University, which was overflowing the Museum provided for it, and to convert it into a National collection in a building to be erected to the west of the College, as an addition to and integral part of the University buildings. The Senatus confidently thought that they could give away their collections and yet still retain them. They even thought that a paternal Government would take the opportunity to build them a Graduation Hall as part of the new building to be erected. How exceedingly deceived they were in their expectations has been to some extent recorded above (p. 357). The whole transaction has turned out in many ways an unfortunate one. If the Science and Art Department of Her Majesty's Government resolved to establish a Museum in Edinburgh—which it was doubtless very proper for them to do—they might have done so without reference to the University. The Treasury now pays above £11,000 a year for the maintenance of their Museum, so that the saving effected by taking over the University's collections was insigni-

ficant. On the other hand, the University has undoubtedly lost prestige by the loss of its Museum. All the pledges made by Government at the time of the transfer have been violated. And the very existence of the Government Museum in its actual locality has been a great disadvantage to the University.

APPENDIX L. THE EDINBURGH OBSERVATORY.

STRENUOUS efforts were made by the great Professor M'Laurin to provide an Observatory for the instruction of Students in the University of Edinburgh. In this good purpose he was, doubtless, encouraged by George Drummond, and the matter was progressing favourably when the troubles arising out of the Porteous riot in 1736 put a stop to it. In 1740 Lord Morton, then Lord Clerk Register, handed over to the University £100 towards building an Observatory; other subscriptions came in, and M'Laurin raised some money for the purpose by a course of popular lectures on experimental philosophy. The sum now amounted to £300, and that being considered sufficient, Maclaurin begged of the Town Council "so much of the southern row of the College buildings as would be sufficient," together with certain grants of building materials. This was agreed to, and an Observatory would have arisen under M'Laurin's auspices about the centre of the present University Library had not the Rebellion of 1745 intervened, shortly after which M'Laurin died.

The money which had been collected was placed in the hands of two trustees, "both of whom," says Arnot (writing in 1779), "unfortunately became bankrupt."¹ But a dividend, amounting with interest to about £400, was recovered out of their estates in 1777. At that time a Mr. Short, brother and executor to a London optician, had come to Edinburgh, bringing with him the optical instruments he had inherited, and among them a large reflecting telescope. He wished as a speculation to erect an Observatory in order to receive fees from visitors who might come to indulge their curiosity or to make observations; and he made an application to the Town Council to be allowed to do so. Some of the Professors, especially Alexander Monro *secundus*, endeavoured to utilise this proposal for the benefit of the Uni-

¹ Arnot's *History of Edinburgh*, p. 415. One of the bankrupts was Matthew Stewart, Professor of Mathematics in the University.

versity. And an arrangement was made by which a liferent of half an acre of ground on the Calton Hill was granted to Mr. Short, and the money above mentioned was handed over to him on condition of his building and fitting up an Observatory, which, with all the instruments therein, was to become the absolute property of the Town Council at the death of Short. During his life he was to make what he could out of entrance-fees from the public, but Students of the University were to be admitted on favourable terms.

A design for the Observatory was made by an architect named Craig. The foundation-stone was laid by the Lord Provost, accompanied by the Town Council and Senatus, on the 25th June 1776. But Arnot, a contemporary writer, tells us that "about this time, Mr. Robert Adam" (to whom the city owes so many of its best buildings) "happened to come to Edinburgh. Upon seeing the intended Observatory, founded upon the top of a high and abrupt hill, he conceived the idea of giving the whole the appearance of a fortification. Accordingly the line was chalked out for enclosing the limits of the Observatory with a wall constructed with buttresses and embrasures and having Gothic towers at the angles. The beauty of the design was so much admired that the main object was forgot. The workmen left the Observatory, already half built, and turned themselves to raise the tower on the south-west brow of the hill. This was greatly promoted by Mr. Short, who in the tower saw an excellent accommodation for himself and family. Upon this building was exhausted all the money destined for the Observatory; and besides a considerable arrear was incurred to the tradesmen. To discharge this the Duke of Hamilton, having gained at Leith races, in July 1777, His Majesty's Purse of a hundred guineas, generously bestowed it for that purpose. Still, however, this sum was only applied to discharge arrears already incurred; the building was not advanced an inch." The Town Council, with a supineness very different from the spirit of George Drummond, moved no further in the matter. "And thus," sighs Arnot, "an optical instrument, perhaps the finest in the world, is lost for the want of a proper place to keep it in; and the Observatory stands a half-finished work upon the highest hill in Edinburgh."

This striking instance of mismanagement remained conspicuous to all eyes for more than a quarter of a century, though in the meantime a Professor of Practical Astronomy had been appointed and had no means of teaching his subject. In 1812 a private Society, calling itself the Astronomical Institution of Edinburgh,¹ obtained from the Town Council a grant of the Observatory enclosure on the Calton Hill on condition that the premises should be used solely for the purposes of an Astronomical Observatory; and they commenced building from a design from Playfair, in which it is said that scientific considerations were too much sacrificed to the picturesque. The means of the Society soon ran short, and in 1813 they began applying to the Treasury for assistance, which at last came to them in 1826 in the shape of a grant of £2000 for the completion of the buildings and the purchase of instruments.

The Universities Commission having reported in 1830 on the death of Blair, the first Professor of Practical Astronomy, that his Chair ought not to be filled up till an Observatory could be provided for his successor, the Government negotiated with the Astronomical Institution, who gave "the use of the Observatory created by them and all the instruments therein contained to the Professor of Practical Astronomy." And Henderson being appointed to the Chair in 1834, at once commenced his course of laborious observations. The Astronomical Institution, having ensured that a competent observer would be maintained at the public expense, desired to withdraw from further responsibility as to the building; and in 1847, under sanction of the Treasury, the Commissioners of Woods and Forests accepted a transfer to them of the Observatory and premises on the Calton Hill under three conditions: 1st, that the office of Astronomer-Royal for Scotland should be permanently associated with the Regius Professorship of Practical Astronomy in the University of Edinburgh; 2d, that the Astronomer should be responsible solely to the department of Government by which he should be appointed; 3d, that a Board of Visitors should be constituted for the Observatory similar to those acting at Greenwich or elsewhere, who should annually report and make suggestions to Government.

¹ At that time Playfair, Professor of Natural Philosophy, was President, and Dr. David Brewster Secretary, of the Astronomical Institution.

These arrangements were concluded during the incumbency of the present Professor and Astronomer-Royal, who was appointed in 1846.

We have above related (p. 343) how that gentleman found, or considered, himself unable to perform, the function of delivering lectures in his Professorial capacity; and in his capacity of Astronomer-Royal he constantly represented to Government the inadequacy of his staff, his allowances, his instruments, and his buildings, for prosecuting the important work with which he had been entrusted. In 1876 a small Commission of most able personages (scientifically and otherwise), with Lord Lindsay as Chairman, was appointed by Parliament to inquire into the state of the Observatory. They reported unfavourably upon both building and instruments, and stated their opinion that, in order to obtain complete efficiency, it would be necessary to remove the Observatory altogether, and rebuild it on some other site to the west or south-east of the town. One curious fact was mentioned by them, namely, that the labours of Henderson had been vitiated "by large and at first unaccountable errors which had crept into the results of his observations." It was ultimately ascertained that these were due to the extreme sensitiveness of the Craigleith sandstone composing the piers upon which the transit instrument was mounted. This stone had been chosen by the Astronomical Institution as the very finest and most suitable for their purpose. But the experience of forty years has shown that "in fact the Craigleith sandstone ranks next to cast-iron in the amount of its expansion under heat. The light of a common bull's-eye lamp, thrown upon one of the piers, will cause it to expand to such an extent that the direction of the axis of the telescope is sensibly altered; and a similar phenomenon will be produced, though in a less degree, even by the approach of the human body to the stone. The liability of the piers to tremor was also exhibited to us by Professor Smyth in the process of taking the collimation error by reflection from the mercury trough. And when looking through the telescope at the surface of the mercury, we were able to see the effects of the tapping of the hand, or even of a single finger, on the stone."

APPENDIX M. GENERAL REID.

THE University owes so much to General Reid that it is a pleasing duty to collect any contemporary notices of him, or other particulars, which may still survive. The following fragments of information have been brought to notice by the kindness of Mr. Small, the University Librarian.

We have seen above (p. 350) that General Reid spoke of himself as the last representative of an old Perthshire family. These were the Robertsons of Straloch; and it may seem odd to state that General Reid's father was Alexander Robertson of Straloch. But he and his forefathers for more than three centuries had been styled the "Barons Rua," or "Roy," this designation having arisen from the family having got a royal grant of a barony, and from the first of the line having had red hair. While the head of the family was addressed in all companies as "Baron Rua," his signature was invariably Robertson, until John Robertson—our General—the last of the race, who assumed the nickname, which had grown into a courtesy title, as his surname, and called himself "Reid" (which would be *Anglice* "Red," see above, page 173). This is just what the celebrated Rob Rua Macgregor did, when he signed himself Rob Roy.¹ But the curious thing is that John Robertson called himself Reid during his father's lifetime, when he was not as yet Baron Rua, and was only entitled to the name of Robertson.

He joined the Regiment raised by the Earl of Loudon in 1745, half of which went abroad, and the other half was kept in Scotland as a check upon Prince Charlie's Highlanders. He afterwards joined the 42d Regiment, and served with them in America. He there married Susanna Alexander, whose brother claimed the earldom of Stirling, the title of which was denied to him by the House of Lords owing to his having taken part in the Jacobite rising, but was accorded to him in America.

Major John Reid, as he had now become, acquired—how, is not very clear—an estate in the neighbourhood of New York, which his father, in a letter still extant, describes as "larger than all Perthshire." Bower says that the estate was confiscated, but

¹ These facts are given by Colonel David Stewart, in his *Sketches of the Highlanders*, vol. i. p. 98.

it seems more probable that he was allowed to sell it, for his father speaks of him as having this estate, but no ready money ; whereas at his death, in 1807, he left £52,000 invested in consols.

Reid's daughter, who in 1775 was described by her grandfather as "a handsome girl, going fourteen years," married her cousin, Dr. Stark Robertson. General Reid's Highland pride made him look down on the medical profession ; he was extremely averse to the marriage, and used to speak of his son-in-law as a "vile apothecary." It was this feeling, combined with the circumstance that Mrs. Stark Robertson never had any children, which procured the Reid bequest for the University.

There appears to have been a good deal of poetry and music among both the soldiers and the officers of the 42d Regiment. Reid himself was a most accomplished flute-player, and also a composer, and the men "were much attached to him for his poetry, his music, and his bravery as a soldier."¹ At his Birthday Concert, every year now on the 13th February, the orchestra perform a pastoral movement of his, a minuet, and the martial song called "The Garb of Old Gaul." Stewart, in his *Sketches of the Highlanders*, states that the words of this song were originally composed in Gaelic, and afterwards translated into English. But it seems more probable that the reverse of this process took place. The first two lines of the song are fine :—

"In the garb of old Gaul, with the fire of old Rome,
From the heath-covered mountains of Scotia we come."

But the inspiration of the poet failed him there ; and the rest of the words are justly characterised by Graham in his *Songs of Scotland* (vol. iii. p. 113) as "very trashy." The author of the song as we have it in English was Lieut.-General Sir Henry Erskine of Alva, Bart., who brought it out in a volume called *The Lark* in 1765. Shortly after this time the "Black Watch" returned to Scotland, and Colonel Reid, as he then was, set the song to music. Certainly one of the men in the Regiment wrote Gaelic words for it, but it seems more probable that he should have made a Gaelic version of the English song which his Colonel had set to music, than that Sir Henry Erskine, whom we do not know to have been a Gaelic scholar, should have

¹ Stewart's *Sketches of the Highlanders*, vol. i. p. 360.

translated the Gaelic words into English. However, Stewart quotes the testimony of an officer in the Black Watch, that though he could not "recollect the name of the man who composed the 'Garb of old Gaul,'" he "thought his manner of singing the Gaelic words of it preferable to the English."

Of Colonel Reid, as a flute-player, we have an enthusiastic contemporary description preserved in a letter of Mrs. Cockburn, the authoress of "The Flowers of the Forest."¹ Writing to some lady friend, she says: "Of all the sounds I ever heard—and my soul has soared to heaven before now—of all the sounds I ever heard, Colonel Reid's flute—well, it is amazing the powers of it; it thrills to your very heart. He plays in any taste you please, and composes what he plays. You know my taste is the *penseroso*, and so it is his. He played me five acts of a tragedy that went to my heart, and I spoke in to myself all the words of it. I would not let him speak the epilogue. You must hear him, Sylph. Oh, how I regretted your absence to-night! But here is a letter that will bring harmony enough to you. My niece Clark was so good as entertain me with Colonel Reid to-night. He is a gentle, melancholy, tall, well-bred, lean man; and for his flute, it speaks all languages; but these sounds that come from the heart to the heart! I never could have conceived it. It had a dying fall, I was afraid I could not bear it, when I heard it perfectly. I can think of nothing but that flute,—so good night, good Sylph."

From the Matriculation Album of the University we find that "John Reid" attended the Logic Class of Professor Stevenson in the Session 1743-44. What other classes he attended is not on record.

¹ Given in Miss Tytler's *Songstresses of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 130.

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